

Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Older Adults Fact Sheet 1

Background—Senior Assisted Housing Waiver

- The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) implemented the Senior Assisted Housing Waiver in 1993. This Waiver has been giving eligible low-income adults a choice of receiving long term care services in a community-based setting, rather than in a nursing facility.
- This waiver provided services to 135 older adults. To qualify, individuals had to receive services in Senior Assisted Housing group homes certified by MDoA, meet certain Medicaid financial requirements, be at least 62 years old, be eligible for MDoA housing subsidies and for Medicare, live in certain jurisdictions, and be medically qualified for nursing facility level of care under the Medicaid program.
- Expenditures for waiver participants cannot exceed the cost of their nursing facility care.

SB 593 and Waiver Expansion—Waiver for Older Adults

- In 1999 the General Assembly passed SB 593 (sponsored by Senator Hollinger and Senator Teitelbaum) which directed DHMH to expand the Senior Assisted Housing Waiver to cover services in all types of licensed assisted living facilities, as well as supportive services for individuals living at home. The Waiver amendments were developed with a workgroup that included representatives from other State and local agencies, advocacy organizations, providers, and provider organizations. In March 2000, the Department was notified that the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) had approved the majority of the provisions proposed in the Waiver amendment proposal. The amended waiver, which has been renamed the Waiver for Older Adults, covers 1,135 individuals in the first year and 5,135 individuals after five years, depending on budget appropriations.
- **July 2000**
On July 1, 2000, the current Waiver was expanded statewide and ***the number of slots were increased up to 1,135***. At the same time, DHMH and MDoA developed new operational systems and regulations in place for the new expanded services.
- **Fall 2000**
In November the State will conduct regional training sessions for potential providers of new waiver services, and will begin to process applications for new providers to participate in the waiver using new instructions to make the provider application more “provider friendly.” MDoA maintains a database of prospective providers that are interested in enrolling in the waiver. MDoA has selected a vendor to develop the information and billing systems necessary under the waiver. The regulations will be effective on January 1, 2001.
- **January 2001**
On January 1, 2001, the target population of individuals who are eligible for the Waiver will expand from at least 62 years old to at least 50 years old. New services will become available and new provider types will be able to participate. Eligible participants will be able to receive services in their homes or in large or small assisted living facilities.

Specifications for the Waiver for Older Adults *Administered by Area Agencies on Aging*

Target Population

- Low-income adults may be eligible if they live at home or in a licensed assisted living facility and are:
 - At least 50 years of old;
 - Have a monthly income of no more than \$1536 (300% of the SSI level);
 - Have assets that are no more than \$2000 to \$2500, depending on eligibility category; and
 - Qualify for nursing facility level of care.

Services

- Covered Waiver services include (new services are in bold print):
 - **Personal care**
 - **Respite care**
 - Senior Center Plus
 - **Personal emergency response systems**
 - **Extended home health care**
 - **Environmental modifications** & assessments
 - Case management (Administrative service through Area Agencies on Aging)
 - **Home-delivered meals**
 - Assisted living services
 - **Family or consumer training**
 - **Dietitian/ Nutritionist services**
 - **Assistive devices**
 - Behavior consultation services
- Other services available under Medicaid include:
 - Medicaid acute, primary, & preventive services
 - Home health care
 - Transportation (Through local health departments)
 - Medical day care
 - Durable medical equipment
 - Disposable medical supplies

Provider Participation

- The following providers may be eligible to offer certain Waiver services, if they meet Waiver requirements:
 - Licensed assisted living programs
 - Residential service agencies
 - Meal delivery services
 - Local Health Departments
 - Local Departments of Social Services
 - Congregate housing providers
 - Personal emergency response vendors
 - Certain types of licensed professionals (e.g. dietitians/ nutritionists)
 - Senior Center Plus Centers
 - Home health agencies
 - Nursing facilities
 - Medical day care centers
 - Respite care providers
 - Personal care providers
 - Building contractors
 - Medical equipment vendors

All Waiver providers must be approved Medicaid providers and appropriately certified.

Rates

Reimbursement rates for these waiver services are listed below. A range of payment rates for services incorporates the costs associated with variations in personnel skills and types of facilities.

Service	Medicaid Maximum Reimbursement Rates
Assisted Living	\$1530 per month for Level II care \$ 1930 per month for Level III care
Assistive Devices	Medicaid pays the actual approved cost, at most \$100 per item
Behavior Consultation Services	\$35 per hour
Dietitian/ Nutritionist Services	\$55 per hour
Environmental Accessibility Adaptations	Medicaid pays the actual approved cost, with a \$3000 limit per participant over a lifetime
Environmental Assessments	\$350 per assessment
Family or Consumer Training	\$55 per hour
Home Health	Medicaid's current reimbursement methodology for State Plan home health services
Home-Delivered Meals	\$5 per delivered meal
Personal Care	\$9 to \$15 per hour for aide services \$55 per hour for agency nurse monitors
Personal Emergency Response Systems	Medicaid pays the actual approved cost
Respite Care	\$64 to \$120 per day, or \$9 to \$11.50 per hour
Senior Center Plus	\$40 per day

**If you want more information on the Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults,
please call the Maryland Department on Aging at 410-767-1118**

or locate your Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-AGE-DIAL.